

EDUCATION.

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It is a source of unfeigned mortification to every North Carolinian that his State continues to be put down in the census reports at the foot of the list in regard to education. Though she has made considerable advancement, as compared with her previous condition, she has not diminished the distance which for forty years has intervened between herself and her sister States. A mountaineer, whom I once visited at his home on business connected with an approaching Congressional election, received me at his cabin door with a cordial greeting, and introduced me to his wife and nine children with the homely witticism: "Me and my wife begun life with nothing, Colonel, and you see we've held our own." I told him, and told him truly, that no man was poor who had nine strong and affectionate children. This is North Carolina's case: she began with poor chances for popular education, and has held her own. Though rich in the stalwart sons and noble daughters which have blessed her existence, she has not dressed and polished those corner-stones of her beauty as she should have done. It is written: "Lo! children are an heritage of the Lord. As arrows are in the hands of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them."

Does this state of things prove that North Carolinians are more indifferent to education than their neighbors? If such a presumption arises, I think it may be rebutted by our history. There seems to have been a fatality attending all our efforts in this direction, to which but few if any other of the American States have been subjected.